



October 5, 2021

**Board of Education
Douglas County School District
620 Wilcox Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104**

Dear Board of Education Members,

North Star Academy hereby requests an emergency waiver of Douglas County School District Board Policy JLCC Communicable Disease and Illness per section 5.5(b)(iii) of our charter agreement:

“The school may request additional waivers...Upon receipt of such request, the District shall have 30 calendar days to review the request and, thereafter, shall present the matter before the Board at its next regular meeting. The Board shall, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, have 30 calendar days to consider the matter prior to rendering a decision at a regular meeting...Waiver of District policies shall not be unreasonably withheld.”

Notwithstanding the cited terms above, North Star Academy reasonably asks for an emergency waiver based on the recent actions of the Douglas County School District. Policy JLCC was in place last school year, when much less was known about COVID and positivity and hospitalization rates were higher than what exists today. Appropriately, DCSD did not seek to impose its mitigation efforts through Policy JLCC, or the terms of any other policy, on North Star Academy or other charter schools. As of a few weeks ago, DCSD unilaterally changed its approach.

Given the change in approach to imposing upon charter schools as of a few weeks ago, North Star Academy hopes and expects that the Board of Education will grant an emergency waiver and/or will forego any enforcement action until this replacement policy is approved.

Beyond COVID mitigation, North Star Academy’s replacement policy reflects a commitment to adhere to all applicable local, state, and federal mandates from appropriate public health departments along with a commitment to act consistently with information and guidelines from those entities. North Star Academy further commits to share and solicit mitigation strategies and data with the Douglas County School District and Douglas County charter schools to help ensure the health and welfare of all of our students.

North Star Academy further makes this request in an effort to align our charter school with our new local health department, Douglas County Health Department, rather than Tri-County Health as currently stated in JLCC.

Thank you for your consideration.

**North Star Academy Principal
Kendra Hossfeld**

**North Star Academy Board President
Robin Jennings**